

CHRIS CARR'S CHAT, another page from 15 Crabble Lane, River,  
Dover, Kent.

In the 4/69 issue, Number 114, I suggested a price for each British perfin based on the catalogue value of the stamp rather than fixing a value for each perfin based on its scarcity.

Only two members really commented on my article. One from Keith Misegades being published in 5/69, number 115. I still maintain that my system is best. My article dealt with G.B. perfins, whereas Mr. Misegades introduced a red-herring in the form of the American perfin PRR.

I feel that any modern perfin can be common if you buy your perfins in bulk. As a dealer who sells all types of perfins, I find it necessary to mix batches of bulk perfins to minimise this effect. My perfins are bought from all parts of the country and certain local government and traders perfins tend to turn up regularly. Bulk originating in Thanet will contain a proportion of MC and RC of the Margate and Ramsgate Corporations, while that from London will contain GLC, and that from the Birmingham area will contain CB. Therefore, collectors in those areas, or collectors who buy our bulk, will consider that these are common, but I have no doubt that they could be missing from other collections. That is why I put a price per 100 on the low value QE stamps to compensate for duplication, but if someone wished to buy individual individually listed perfins of QE then the price would be identical per perfin for the same basic stamp.

Likewise, for the earlier issues it would need considerable time consuming research to try to evaluate each perfin, after all, who in the Society is going to say that A.83 is worth more than A.215?

As most collectors only collect one of each perfin, the owner of a stamp catalogued at £2 is not going to sell it for 5p. He wants to get an idea of how much it is worth, and the prospective buyer wants to know how much he should pay for it. I drew up my list to provide the guide that they both might need. After all, Stanley Gibbons do it, their catalogues are their selling prices, (if the stamps are in stock and subject to the usual conditions about price movements), They have to get their information from somewhere and often it is based on recent auction realisations.

As I said in the article, the prices were obtained from society auction prices and our own-selling prices, and give what I consider to be fair values for perfins. Three years have now elapsed since the list was published and nothing has happened to make me change my views.

If any member requires a copy of the article I will be glad to send a reprint, with slight alterations, on receipt of a 3p stamp (overseas members can send 120 or one International Reply Coupon).